



"Focus" on Vision Impairment & Blindness Conference

Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Intellectual Disability & Vision Loss

March 12, 2014
8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood, MA

Welcome Remarks:

Paul Saner

Commissioner, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Keynote Speaker:

Jim Elliott

Founder & President of Diveheart

"Imagine the Possibilities"

Awards at Lunch:

Mark Holt "Gift of Lunch"

Paul McDade "Focus" Award for Distinguished Service

Paul McDade "Focus" Award for Distinguished Leadership

"Focus" on Talent!!!

Special Closing Performance by: "Wild Fire Girls"

A Very Special Thank You...

Co-Lead Sponsors:

**Perkins Training Center
MA Commission for the Blind**

Sponsors:

**DDS Southeast Region Training Council
New England College of Optometry**

Friends:

Shriver Clinical Services

To Our Exhibitors Including:

Exhibitors:

**Ai Squared
The Carroll Center for the Blind
Easter Seals Massachusetts
Mass EDP
National Braille Press
Perkins eLearning
Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library
Perkins School for the Blind**

Literature Table:

**Ablenet
American Printing House for the Blind
Enabling Devices
Eye Care America
Hadley School for the Blind
Independent Living Aids
National Eye Institute
Prevent Blindness America**

Poster Displays:

LightAide: Lights for Learning

Catherine Rose, PhD/MBA
Phillips Healthcare Lighting

Fitness & Exercise Safety Considerations Working with the Visually Impaired

Megan Lincoln-Hilberg, NSCA-CPT
EDCO/Wrentham Developmental Center

Facilitating Communication Through Music

Laura Boardman, SLPA/L and Lisa El-Lakis, MT/BC
Hogan Regional Center

Accessible Recreation in Massachusetts' State Parks

Department of Conservation and Recreation's Universal Access Program

Recognizing, Reporting and Responding to Abuse Against Persons with Disabilities.

Jennifer Edwards-Hawkins, Disabled Persons Protection Commission

Fun Personalized Mobility Assessments and Programs For Individuals with Multiple Impairments

Amber L. Vaillancourt M.Ed., COMS
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Playing Games & Having Fun

Amber Bobnar from WonderBaby.org

My Scuba Diving Experience

Yashira Correa
People, Incorporated

"Mittens"

Leann Lasofsky

My Social Security Accounts at www.socialsecurity.gov

Social Security Administration

"Seeing into the Future"

Bianca Cronin
The Charles River Center, Therapeutic Day Services



Visionstrong: Gym accessibility for individuals with vision loss

Stephen Jordan M.Ed, COMS,
MAB Community Services

Introducing our Keynote:

Jim Elliott



Jim Elliott is the founder and president of Diveheart, a not-for-profit organization that helps build confidence and independence in children, adults and veterans with disabilities through scuba diving. Jim's inspiration came from his daughter who was blind from birth, and developed tremendous self-confidence after learning how to downhill ski. Passionate about scuba diving since the 1970's Jim decided to replicate his daughter's experience, but in the forgiving weightless environment underwater which provides perfect buoyancy and balance to individuals who might otherwise struggle on land.

In 1996 Jim left a successful career in the media industry to become a full-time volunteer and focus on helping individuals with disabilities experience freedom underwater. Over the years, Diveheart's reputation has grown nationally and internationally. Jim has been solicited as an advisor to launch similar projects in more than 200 cities around the world including China, Australia, Israel, and more. Jim is sought after to conduct trainings for instructors and dive buddies internationally as well as lecturing professionals about the Diveheart vision of scuba diving as a tool to revolutionize rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities.

In addition to the keynote, Jim Elliott will also be offering a concurrent session at the conference: **Forget the Moon.**

Conference Agenda **"At-a-Glance"**

8:00 – 8:25	Registration / Vendors Open / Refreshments
8:25 – 8:30	Opening Remarks
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome Remarks
8:45 – 9:45	Keynote
9:45 – 10:00	Break / Exhibits Open
10:00 – 11:00	1 st Concurrent Session
11:00 – 11:15	Break / Exhibits Open
11:15 – 12:15	2 nd Concurrent Session
12:15 – 12:30	Exhibits Open
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch & Award Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Holt Gift of Lunch• Paul McDade "Focus" Awards for Distinguished Service and Leadership
1:30 – 2:00	Dedicated Time for Exhibits Session
2:00 - 3:00	3 rd Concurrent Session
3:00 – 3:15	Break / Refreshments / Exhibits Open
3:15 – 3:45	"Focus" On Talent!!! (Performance) / Raffle

Directions!!!

Four Points by Sheraton Norwood

1125 Boston-Providence Turnpike

Route 1 (18 miles south of Boston)

Norwood, MA 02062

Phone: 781-769-7900

www.fourpointsnorwood.com

Please see page 13 for a full listing of directions!!!!

We look forward to seeing you on March 12th!!!

"Focus" on Vision Impairment & Blindness

8:00 – 8:25 Registration / Exhibits Open / Refreshments

8:30 – 8:45 Welcome Remarks

8:45 – 9:45 Keynote: Jim Elliott
Founder and President of Diveheart

Imagine the Possibilities

Diveheart uses zero gravity & the wonder of the water column to build confidence, independence and self-esteem in children, adults and veterans of all abilities. Inspired by his blind daughter, Diveheart founder and President Jim Elliott has built a worldwide organization of volunteers who make a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities through scuba diving. You'll be inspired by the possibilities!

9:45 – 10:00 Break / Exhibits Open

10:00 – 11:00 Concurrent Sessions

A. Glaucoma: What is it? What do we do to treat?

Presenters: Manishi Desai, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Boston University School of Medicine
Boston Medical Center

Meenakshi Chaku, MD
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Boston University School of Medicine
Boston Medical Center

Description: Glaucoma is a degenerative neuropathy that is commonly asymptomatic but can lead to blindness. Glaucoma can be treated and often blindness prevented if detected early. Various treatment options exist but often need to be tailored to what is best suited for the individual patient.

B. "The Eye Exam: What? Why? Who?"

Presenter: Darick Wright
Clinic Coordinator, New England Eye Clinic at Perkins

Description: Ophthalmologist or Optometrist? Vision Screening or Vision Exam? In this session you will learn the differences between the various medical professionals, what constitutes a vision screening versus a vision exam, and explore the basic components of an eye exam.

10:00 – 11:00 Concurrent Sessions (continued)

C. Forget the Moon

Presenter: Jim Elliott

Founder & President of Diveheart

Description: Diveheart founder and President Jim Elliott has learned to use adaptive tools that now allow individuals of all abilities to experience zero gravity right here on earth. Join Jim as he introduces new scuba diving tools, technology and techniques. Be guided through a tactile and visual experience using Diveheart's adaptive tools.

D. Assistive Technology – Free and Reduced Assistive Technology for Individuals who are Developmentally Disabled, Visually Impaired and/or Hearing Impaired

Presenter: Bianca Fillion, M.Ed, COMS

MAB Community Services

Description: This presentation will briefly go over the definition of Assistive Technology. It will also discuss agencies/organizations/programs that provide free or reduced assistive technology, assistive technology loans, and assistive technology training to individuals who are developmentally disabled, visually impaired, and/or hearing impaired including American Printing House for the Blind (APH), MassMatch, National Federation for the Blind (NFB), Easter Seals, Computers for the Blind, iCanConnect, and Perkins Talking Book Library. The presentation will provide web links and contact information.

E. Using iPad for Communication: Visual Impaired Accessibility

Presenter: Tammy Taylor, MS, CCC-SLP

Speech Language Pathology Center

Description: This lecture will provide participants with an overview of how to implement various targeted iPad apps for augmentative/alternative communication (AAC) and/or video modeling for the visually impaired. Focus of this workshop will include popular apps such as, Proloquo2go, MyTalkTools, Read to Learn and Autismate. In addition, participants will learn strategies for customizing switch access of the iPad to increase carryover of communication in various settings.



11:00 – 11:15 Break / Exhibits Open

11:15 – 12:15 Concurrent Sessions

A. Fitting Eyewear Can be Challenging: Understanding the Needs of The Individual

Presenter: Wayne Lepage, O.A.M./A.B.O.C.
Randolph Eye Associates

Description: This presentation will encompass a wide range of eye wear fitting and adjustment techniques. If glasses do not feel comfortable, if the lens is twisted in the frame, if they are scratched or the frame is bent the person cannot see well, which can lead to refusing to wear them or tolerating them and the person's safety being put in jeopardy. See how simple, free regular adjustments will save you money, frustration, time and potentially prevent injury related to diminished vision from non-functioning glasses! This presentation will cover the more challenging fittings and adjustments experienced over a 40 year career as an Optician.

B. Addressing ADA Issues and Concerns in the Day Program and Residences: Dealing with Regulations and City Departments

Presenters: Donna DiCorpo, M.Ed, COMS
Orientation and Mobility Specialist
MCB/DDS Partnership Project
Taunton Public Schools
Disability Commissioner-Taunton

Meg Robertson, BS, MS, COMS
Director Orientation and Mobility Department,
MA Commission for the Blind

Description: This presentation will identify common ADA issues that arise within day program and residential settings. Regulations for various issues will be discussed with information provided on how to contact correct departments within the city/town to assist in correcting the situations. The rights of the consumers will be discussed as well as how to navigate the myriad of department/agencies that oversees specific ADA violations.



11:15 – 12:15 Concurrent Sessions (continued)

C. Exercise for All

Presenters: Jane Rosen, MA, COMS
Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist
Deafblind/Low Vision/Blind Department
Worcester Public Schools

Susan DeCaluwe, M.Ed.
Teacher of the Deafblind
Deafblind/Low Vision/Blind Department
Worcester Public Schools

John Nelson
Greendale Family Branch, YMCA

Description: For the past 12 years, students in Worcester Public Schools who have deafblindness, low vision or blindness with additional disabilities have been attending the Greendale YMCA on a weekly basis.

They have been developing and increasing their skills in communication, independent living, orientation and mobility, recreation and leisure, self-determination and social interaction as part of the National Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments and Blindness. The teaching of these skills must be planned and deliberately taught.

In February 2012, the Greendale YMCA launched a grant-funded program to provide individualized personal training to members of the special needs community. The goal of this project is to overcome the impediments to exercise for members of the special needs community so that they can experience the physical, emotional and mental health benefits that accrue from participating in an appropriately designed exercise program.

Both of these programs focus on the development of lifelong skills. Regardless of age, understand how the National Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments and Blindness will benefit the individuals you work with. Come meet our students and see what they are doing. Learn about the benefits of exercise, community collaboration and funding. See first-hand how to duplicate this program.

11:15 – 12:15 Concurrent Sessions (continued)

D. Adapted Vision Rehab Training On a Budget

Presenters: Amber Vaillancourt, Teacher & COMS
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Carolyn Ovesen, Rehabilitation Teacher & COMS
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Description: We ain't talking about magnifiers, people! Attend this workshop if you want to explore techniques to personalize a vision rehabilitation program to those with visual impairments in conjunction with multiple disabilities-including CVI, TBI, strokes, closed head injuries and cognitive disabilities. Adaptive equipment, methodologies and case studies will be presented. Low cost suggestions for a variety of settings as well as commercially available products will be presented as part of this session as well. The focus will be on organization/markings, adaptive cooking techniques and communication strategies.

E. Ninety Percent of Eye Injuries are Preventable

Presenter: Kathy Majzoub, RN, MBA
Director, Northeast Region
Prevent Blindness America

Description: Eye injuries can occur from a variety of common sources, such as flying debris from lawn mowers or trimmers, or splashes from household cleaners, paints or solvents. Protective eyewear approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) when should be worn when performing household activities. For those who wear prescription glasses, many safety glasses or goggles will fit over regular glasses. Regular eyeglasses do not always provide enough protection, and may even cause further injury upon impact. "Accidents can happen in an instant but have an impact on eye health for the rest of your life."

12:15 – 12:30 Exhibits Open

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch & Award Presentations:

- Mark Holt "Gift of Lunch"
- Paul McDade "Focus" Award for Distinguished Service
- Paul McDade "Focus" Award for Distinguished Leadership

1:30 – 2:00 Dedicated Vendor & Poster Session!!!

We listened to you!!! - This year we have again scheduled more time after lunch for meeting our Vendors, viewing the Posters and Networking!!! Enjoy!!!



2:00 – 3:00 Concurrent Sessions

A. Changes in Visual Function

Presenter: Barry S Kran, OD, FAAO
Professor, New England College of Optometry
Optometric Director, NE Eye Perkins Low Vision Clinic

Description: What behaviors might be consistent with a change in functional vision and therefore the need for eye care? This presentation will explore many common and some serious conditions that when addressed can typically be remediated with improvement in functional vision performance and over all affect.

B. The Eyes Have It!

Presenter: June Smith OTR/L
Occupational Therapist
South Shore Therapies

Description: This experiential workshop will enable the participant to observe an ocular-motor screening, become aware of standardized evaluations and treatment strategies that are commonly used, and considerations for making an appropriate referrals to those involved in vision care. Through use of case studies and video analysis, this information will be applied to the special needs population with an emphasis on responses of those on the autism spectrum. Participants will walk away with new eyes to understand the needs of children and adults with difficulty in these important and relevant, functional visual deficits and various methods of integrating treatment strategies (e.g. Vision Therapy; Brain Gym; Postural Reflexes).

C. How to Safely Support the Visually Impaired in the Aquatic & Fitness Settings

Presenters: Susannah Locketti, – Aquatics & Wellness Coordinator
New England Village Sollar Wellness Center

Kimberly Lowman, – Adaptive Fitness Coordinator
New England Village Sollar Wellness Center

Description: This presentation will provide direct support professionals and swim and fitness professionals with the tools needed to safely support the visually impaired in the aquatic and fitness settings. Emphasis will be placed on safety considerations and instructional methods, in addition to hands on demonstrations utilizing one or more of our clients with vision impairment.

2:00 – 3:00 Concurrent Sessions (continued)

D. Cultivating Meaningful Work Experiences: The Whys, The Whats and the How Tos

Presenters: Marianne Gilmore, MS, CRC, CESP
Workforce Development Specialist
Carroll Center for the Blind

Karen L. McCormack, Job Developer for Educational Programs
Perkins School for the Blind

Description: Work experiences are a critical component of a rich, meaningful life. These experiences not only provide opportunities to enhance skills, they offer individuals a platform to develop relationships and contribute to their community. This presentation will offer examples of successful work experiences and explore the strategies and techniques involved in developing them. Marianne and Karen have over 30 years of collective experience in job coaching and job development for individuals with developmental disabilities, and each has particular experience supporting and developing work experiences for individuals with visual impairments.

E. Using the iPad-Creating Leisure Activities for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and Visual Impairment

Presenter: Michelle J. Antinarelli, COMS

Description: Finding the right app and the right activity for adults with intellectual disability and visual impairment can be challenging for the support team. A few apps lend themselves to our consumers, and others can be customized to support socialization, communication, and rejuvenation. Join me as we look at a few MUST have apps!

3:00 – 3:15 Break / Refreshments / Exhibits Open

3:15 – 3:30 "Focus" On Talent!!!

Performance by the **"Wild Fire Girls!"**
will put the finishing touch on the day!

**3:30 - 3:45 Closing Remarks/RAFFLE – Wonderful PRIZES!!!
Must be present to WIN!!!**

Additional Copies of this Registration Brochure:

Registration Brochure and Form can be downloaded from "Training and Events" section of the DDS Vision Loss website: www.mass.gov/dds/visionloss and from the "Perkins Training Center Schedule" on the Perkins website: www.perkins.org/professional/ptc

Directions!!!

Four Points by Sheraton Norwood

1125 Boston-Providence Turnpike

Route 1 (18 miles south of Boston)

Norwood, MA 02062

Phone: 781-769-7900

www.fourpointsnorwood.com

From Boston and points North

Take I-93 South which turns into I-95 (Route 128) North.

Take Exit 15B, Route 1 South toward Norwood.

Travel 4.5 miles, the Four Points by Sheraton Norwood Hotel & Conference Center will be on your right after the Staples Plaza.

From the West

Follow Mass. Turnpike (I-90) East

Take Exit 14 onto I-95 (Route 128) South. (Note: From the West, this Exit is number 14, from the East, it is number 15.)

Continue South to Exit 15B. Route 1, Norwood,

And proceed as above.

From Providence, TF Green Airport & points South

Take I-95 North to Exit 11B, Neponset Street, Norwood.

Drive 7/10 of a mile and turn left onto Dean Street.

At traffic light, turn left onto Route 1, heading South.

The Four Points by Sheraton Norwood Hotel & Conference Center is on your right after the Staples Plaza.

From Logan Airport

Exit airport, follow signs through Williams tunnel (toll) to I-90 /I-93 South. Follow signs for I-93 South about 7 miles.

I-93 South turns into I-95 (Route 128) North.

Proceed on I-95(Route 128) North to Exit 15B, Route 1 Norwood.

Travel Route 1 South 4.5 miles to the Four Points by Sheraton Norwood Hotel & Conference Center, located on your right after the Staples Plaza.



[We look forward to seeing you on March 12th!!](#)

Registration Information

1. Please fill out the attached form and return BY February 21, 2014 to:
Sydnie Jones / Shriver Clinical Services Corporation
Wrentham Developmental Center, PO Box 144
Wrentham, MA 02093



2. For questions regarding Registration, please contact Sydnie Jones:
Sydnie.Jones@state.ma.us or phone 508-384-5679.
3. Please make check payable to: **Shriver Clinical Services Corporation**

4. Continuing Education Information:
Application for 4 hours of Continuing Education has been submitted to:

Academy for Certification of Vision Rehab. & Education Prof. (**ACVREP**)
Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (**CRC**)

An application has been made for 4 **CECs** for Social Workers.

An application has been made to **MA Board of Registration in Nursing** for nursing continuing education.

Questions: Goretti.Moitoso@state.ma.us

NECO/NEEI has applied for 4 hours of **COPE** approved credits.

Questions: Dr. Barry S. Kran @ Kranb@neco.edu

Perkins Training Center will award 5 Professional Development Points (**PDPs**)

Questions: Teresa.Pagliuca@Perkins.org

Please indicate your choice of CEU's on the registration form.

5. Scholarships are available for individuals with intellectual disability and their families. Information: Goretti.Moitoso@state.ma.us
6. Reduced room rates of \$115.00 per night, exclusive of taxes, will be available at the Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood, phone: 781-769-7900. Please mention Shriver Clinical. Rooms at this rate are subject to availability.
7. Registration Brochure and Form can be downloaded from "Training and Events" section of DDS Vision Loss website: www.mass.gov/dds/visionloss and from the "Perkins Training Center Schedule" on the Perkins website: www.perkins.org/professional/ptc
8. Questions please contact: Lisa.DiBonaventura@state.ma.us or 508-384-5539.

Please Register Early!!!

Registration Form

Please return this form by February 21, 2014
Register Early if you can!

"Focus" On Vision Impairment & Blindness

Wednesday March 12, 2014, Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood, Massachusetts

Name: _____

Agency Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Can we share your contact information with sponsors? Yes ____ No ____

Lunch Choice: If no choice is indicated, the Vegan lunch will be ordered.

- Chicken Milanese in a light cream sauce served with asparagus, baby carrots and mashed potatoes ____ or
- Stuffed Portabella with quinoa stuffing w/peppers, carrots and sun-dried tomatoes over a bed of sautéed spinach ____

Special Accommodations Needed: _____

Concurrent Session Selection: Circle the letter of the 3 you plan to attend.

10:00 - 11:00	11:15 - 12:15	2:00 - 3:00
A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E

Please circle the one type of CE you will be requesting:

ACVREP

CRC

CEC

Nursing CEU

COPE

PDP

Conference Rate with Lunch:

General Admittance postmarked by 1/31/13:	General Admittance postmarked after 1/31/13	Physician (MD, DO, OD)
\$50.00	\$60.00	\$110.00

Check enclosed: yes ____ no/reason why _____ **Amount:** _____

Please make check payable to: **Shriver Clinical Services Corporation** and mail along with this form to: Sydnie Jones / Shriver Clinical Services Corp.
Wrentham Developmental Center, PO Box 144, Wrentham, MA 02093

Thank You for your support!

Lisa DiBonaventura, MA, COMS
Statewide Director for Vision & Loss Services, DDS
WDC, PO Box 144
Wrentham, MA 02093